

There was a lady doctor in the Mavelikara District Hospital. A maternity ward should be also opened in the hospital.

The small-pox shed within the hospital premises should be shifted to some place outside the municipal limits in the interests of public health.

The Pallikkal Punnamood road passed through the heart of two important *pakuthies* of the taluk, viz., Tekkakara and Pallikkal. The road should be gravelled and the necessary culverts constructed and properly maintained.

The canal running from Vettikkottu *punja* to Arattu *kadavu* should be widened and deepened. This canal lay from one end of the taluk to the other and, if improved and made navigable, would greatly facilitate transport of manure and agricultural produce.

DEWAN'S REPLY: The establishment of a District Court, Mr. Oommen, must await the report of the Law's Delays Commissioner.

The establishment of a Magistrate's Court will be considered, as I have told other members, at the conference to be held shortly.

An estimate has been sanctioned for constructing a bridge over the Prayikara river, and it is awaiting funds for execution.

The additional groynes in the two places are reported to be not urgent. But the question will be taken up after seeing how the current affects the paddy fields.

Permanent buildings for the two girls' schools are also awaiting funds.

In the local hospital, at present, there is in-patient accommodation for 52 persons. The average attendance is 43, including maternity cases. Until the finances improve, a separate ward for maternity cases does not seem necessary.

The small-pox shed in the hospital is said to be at a safe enough distance from the other wards of the hospital, and precautions are taken to prevent the spread of contagion. The small-pox patients must be fairly near in order to get attention from the medical staff.

The gravelling of the Punnamood-Pallikkal road and its maintenance will be considered.

It is reported that the widening and deepening of the canal from Vettikkottu *punja* to Arattu *kadavu* is not urgent enough to warrant investigation at the moment.

105. Needs of the Pattanamtitta taluk.

MR. THOMAS THOMAS (*Pattanamtitta taluk*) said at the outset that the taluk he represented was one of the biggest taluks in the State in extent, having in area 900 square miles and it had a population of 160,000. The people of the taluk were mainly agriculturists. In point of revenue also the taluk was not backward. But it received little attention at the hands of the Government.

The taluk was badly wanting in facilities of means of communication. The State stood in the forefront among the South Indian States in the matter of communications. For an area of 7,000 and odd square miles covered by the State, there were roads to a length of more than 3,500 miles. But the Pattanamtitta taluk, which was 900 square miles in extent had only a total length of 70 miles of road. For want of adequate means of communication the people themselves had opened certain roads. One of such roads was the Kozhenchery-Mannarkulanji road. This should be improved and taken over for departmental maintenance. Another important road which the ryots had opened was the Ranni-Melukara road. This should also be taken over for departmental maintenance.

A road should be opened to connect Ranni with Mundakayam.

A bridge should be constructed at the Kozhenchery market landing. The necessity for this bridge was repeatedly urged at the previous sessions of the Assembly. When Mr. M. E. Watts, former Dewan, visited the place, he was convinced of the necessity of the bridge and he had issued orders for the preparation of an estimate for the bridge. But it was not known what further action had been taken on it.

Another bridge at the Kaippattur *kadavu* over the Achankovil river was an equally urgent necessity and it should also be constructed at an early date.

Since a major portion of the taluk was covered by reserved forests, there was scarcity of land in the taluk both for habitation and cultivation. Some of the lands included in the reserved forests were unprofitable from a forest point of view. Such lands should be disafforested and registered to the people. The Karunkulam reserve in Survey No. 170 of the Ranni pakuthi, the Koduman reserve, as well as lands in Survey Numbers 7021 and 923 of the Ranni pakuthi could be disafforested and assigned.

The necessity for granting full rights over royal trees standing on registered holdings to the owners thereof was a long-standing request. The Legislative Council had also passed a resolution in favour of it. This should receive the early attention of the Government.

A Munsiff's Court should be established at Pattanamtitta. The need for the Court was represented at several past sessions of the Assembly. The Law's Delays Commissioner had also recommended the establishment of the Court.

A Sub-Registry Office had been sanctioned for Ranni as a result of repeated representations and memorials. But it was abolished subsequently. It should be reopened.

The Government had sanctioned some time back the shifting of the Aranmula Police Station to Kozhenchery. But the orders were not given effect to. The Police Station should be shifted to Kozhenchery without any further delay.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Of the three roads you have mentioned, Mr. Thomas, the first, *viz.*, the Mannarkulanji-Kozhenchery road, will be taken up for departmental maintenance as soon as land to the prescribed width is acquired and handed over. A report will be called for about the Ranni-Mundakayam road. The Ranni-Melukara road has not yet been taken up.

The bridge at the Kozhenchery landing will cost over Rs. 3 lakhs. That will have to wait.

At the Kaippattur *kadavu*, a causeway should, it is reported, be sufficient as there is not much traffic.

It is reported that sufficient disafforestation has been carried out in your taluk and that no further disafforestation is necessary or desirable. Orders are under issue on the report of the Committee on Royal Trees.

The establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Pattanamtitta will await the report of the Law's Delays Commissioner.

In regard to the re-establishment of the Registry Office at Ranni, if the Registry Office at Pattanamtitta is over-worked, the question of reopening the office at Ranni will be considered next year.

The Aranmula Police Station has been turned into an outpost.

106. Some urgent needs of the Tiruvalla taluk.

MR. C. G. VARGHESE (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*) said at the outset that the retrenchment measures adopted by the Government should not be applied to public works intended for the development of means of communication and improvement of minor irrigation works. A policy of development of the means of communication would be the surest and quickest way of promoting the economic welfare of the State and of solving the problem of unemployment.

The following were the urgent needs of the Tiruvalla taluk :—

The works on the Kavumbhagam-Idinjillam road should be completed early. The whole of this road was in a very good condition except the Alunturutti embankment portion which was 3 furlongs in length. This portion of the road should be widened and raised above flood level. The Swamipalam-Mepral road should be completed early and should be taken over for departmental maintenance. The people had opened at considerable cost a branch road called the Swamipalam-Karakal road, 2 furlongs in length and 22 feet broad. This road also should be taken over for departmental maintenance.

The Tiruvalla-Ambalapuzha road from Podiyadi to Neerettupuram was in a very bad condition full of pits and ruts. The work on the road was incomplete. Two small bits of land remained to be acquired. The construction of two bridges with slight improvements to the road would make the road fit for cart traffic.

The Niranam-Vijayapuram road should be improved and made fit for cart traffic. Of the total length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the people themselves had improved the road to a length of one mile.